

Early Vancouver

Volume Two

By: Major J.S. Matthews, V.D.

2011 Edition (Originally Published 1933)

Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1932.

Supplemental to volume one collected in 1931.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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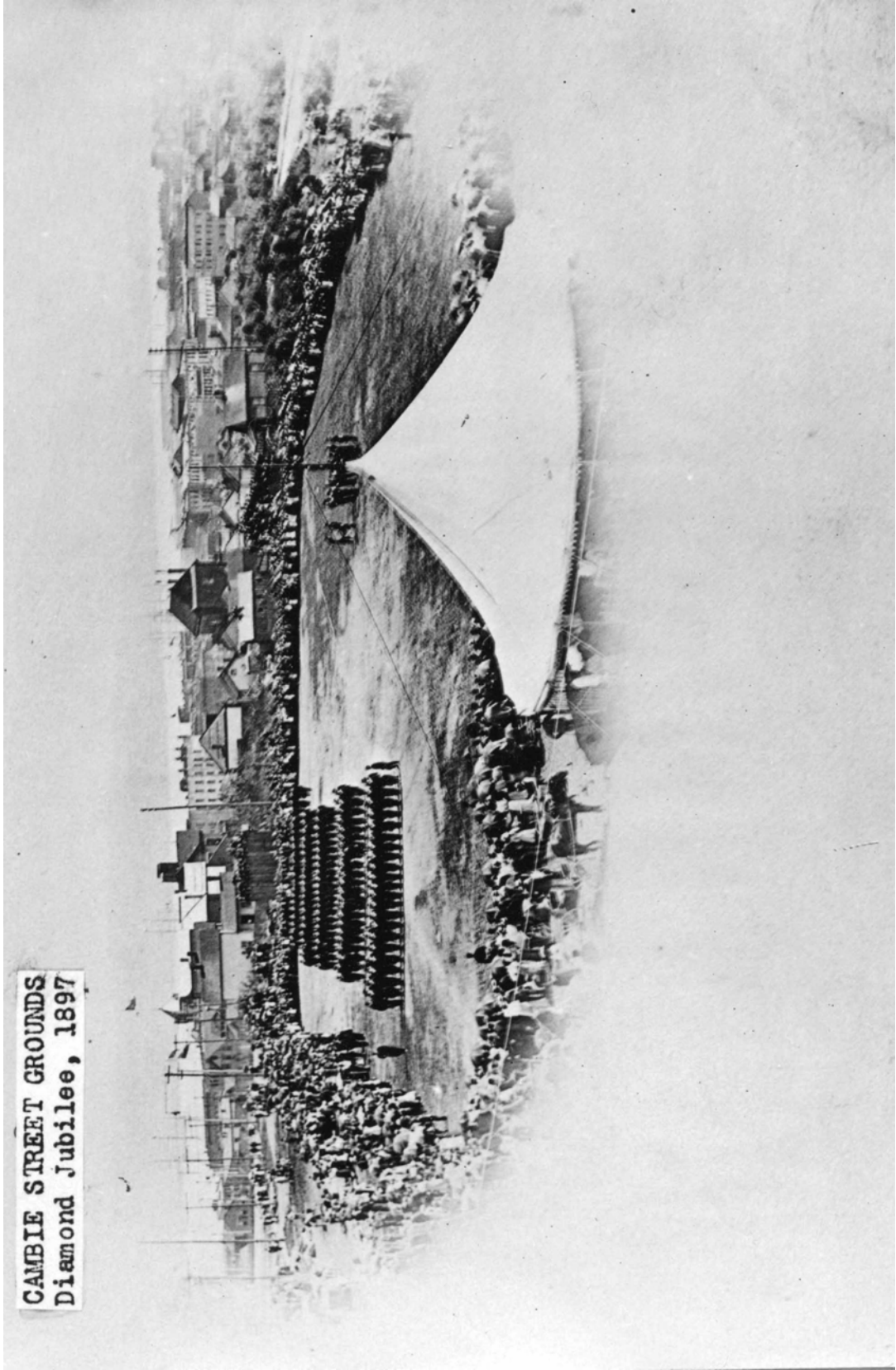


CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS 1887
Our pioneer band.



First Brass Band - Vancouver - Cambie St Grounds

Item # EarlyVan_v2_105

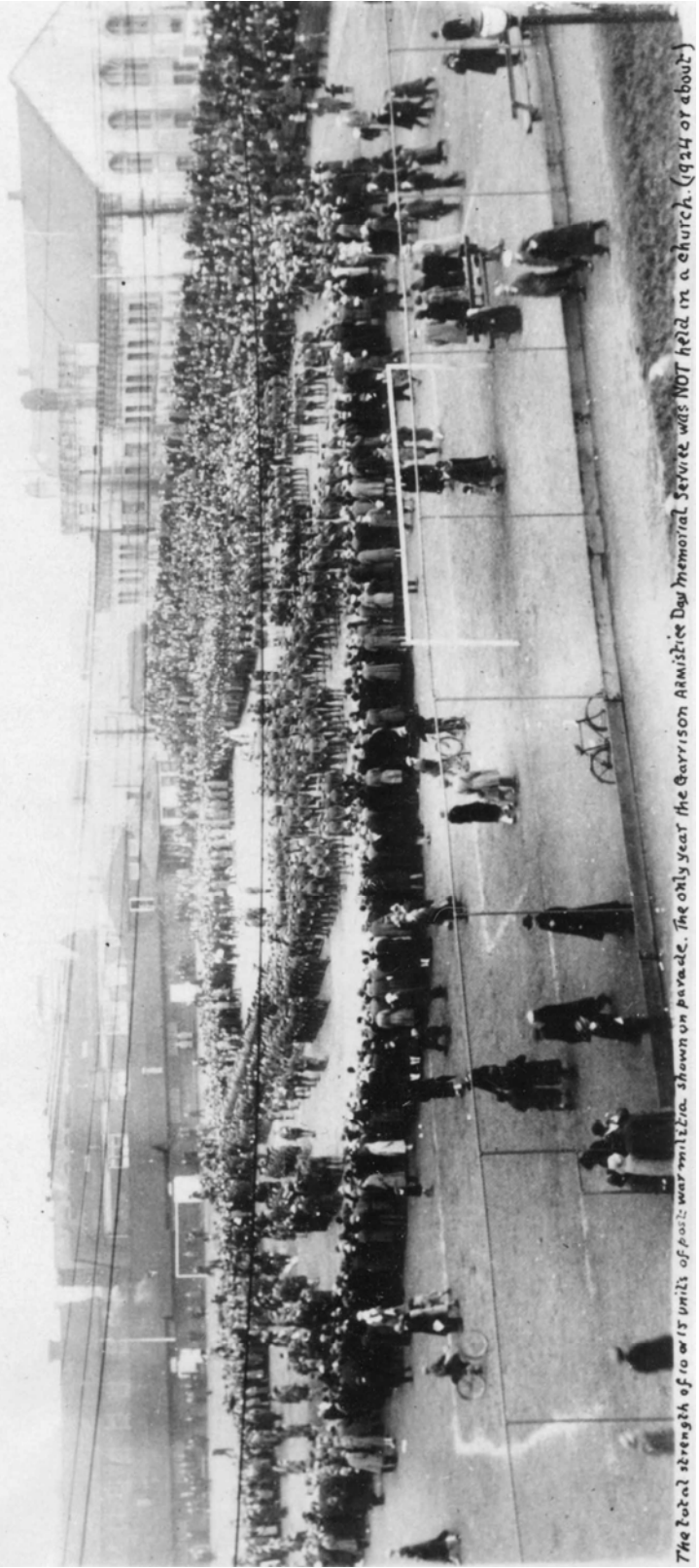


CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS
Diamond Jubilee, 1897

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Cambie St Grounds. Church parade. (mistaken) see best Armistice Day 192. Showing the entire garrison of Vancouver on parade.

CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS
Armistice Day, 1926.



The total strength of 10 or 15 units of post-war militia shown on parade. The only year the Garrison Armistice Day Memorial Service was NOT held in a church. (1924 or about)

Item # EarlyVan_v2_107

**CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS. STANLEY PARK. MAYOR OPPENHEIMER. ALDERMAN HAMILTON.
A.E. BECK, K.C.**

Copy of letter.

Oak Tree House,
Kissimmee, Florida.
11th April 1932.

Dear Major:

I duly received both your letters, and have read over Mr. Beck's article re the Cambie street playgrounds, [*article, Early Vancouver, Matthews, 1931*] which is returned herewith. As far as my memory serves me the statements are in accordance with the facts.

I have a lot of sketches of water colors made at the time when I was laying out the city. I will look them out at Toronto, and send you on such material as I think would be useful.

REFERENCE TO THE CAMBIE STREET GROUNDS and Mr. Beck's reference to the visit to the Narrows reminds me that the great credit for securing the Indian [*he means "government reserve," or Stanley Park*] as a park has always been given to Mayor Oppenheimer. If the records were available it would show that the chief credit should be given to A.W Ross and Alderman Hamilton. We both worked together to attain this object, the former as an M.P. using his influence with the Dominion Government, and the latter with the Canadian Pacific Railway by getting the chief officials at Montréal to use their influence with the government of the day. You may not be aware that I personally surveyed and laid out the drives around the big park, and arranged with the engineer to use the shells on the shore [*Note: not strictly described; they were from an old Indian midden on the shore at Lumberman's Arch, see old photographs, etc., etc.*] to gravel the roads with. On one of our inspection trips the engineer and myself were nearly drowned by having our canoe upset in the Narrows in a tide rip. We both had a hard struggle to get the canoe ashore; then in our wet clothes on the bitterly cold evening, paddled all the way back to the Granville wharf.

Yours very truly,

L.A. HAMILTON.

P.S. Have you any record of the votes taken at the first election in Vancouver? I think that the city records were destroyed, [*Note: in the Great Fire, 13 June 1886*] but that information might be found in the New Westminster or Victoria papers of that date.

L.A.M.

EARLY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

In the minutes of the City Council for 28 March 1887, page 298, the Board of Works recommends (24 March 1887) as follows:

"That a committee consisting of Alderman Hamilton, Lefevre, and Oppenheimer be appointed to ascertain at what price the following blocks can be purchased for a city park, viz. 105 to 110 in District lots 196 and 181, or any other blocks in a suitable locality within the city limits. Carried."

Grove Street, a short street of two blocks on the shore of False Creek between Jackson Avenue and Dunlevy Avenue formed the base line of a crescent-shaped street in the woods known as Grove Crescent, one half of the horn of the crescent forming block 105, and block 110 the other half. It is now part of Atlantic Street.

A.E. Beck, K.C., who was largely responsible for the securing of Cambie Street grounds, states that this property was proposed as an alternative to the Cambie Street grounds property, afterwards secured. (See Council minutes 25 April 1887.) (See Matthews, *Early Vancouver*, 1931.)